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96.00 Utility Accommodation
96.60 Specific Requirements
96.61 Communications

By: Director, Bureau of Highway Operations

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A. Standards

The minimum standards for the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of communication-type utility facilities shall be those embodied in the Wisconsin Administrative Code for each of the various utilities and phases of utility activities covered therein. When the codes, ordinances, or laws of governmental agencies having jurisdiction are more restrictive, they shall govern. When neither the Wisconsin Administrative Codes nor the local governmental regulations apply, the communication facility shall at least conform with the currently applicable National Electrical Safety Code.

B. Type of Construction

For above ground (overhead) installations, the following should be considered:

1. Single Pole

Any longitudinal installations of overhead lines within the right-of-way should utilize single pole construction.

2. Joint Use

Joint use single pole construction should be used:

- a. At locations where more than one utility or type of facility is involved.
- b. When the right-of-way widths approach the minimum needed for safe operations or maintenance requirements.
- c. When separate installations require extensive removal or alteration of trees.

C. Down Guy Locations

Guy wires to ground anchors and other supporting or bracing devices shall not be placed between a pole and the traveled way where they would encroach upon the clear zone unless specifically authorized by the Department utilizing breakaway technology.

D. Maintenance Activities

Certain maintenance and other types of utility activities are considered minor in nature, and shall be allowed to be performed without an additional permit. However, should any of these selected maintenance activities be performed on facilities located within freeway right-of-way or significantly impact the free flow of traffic on any other highway (closure of a travel lane, diversion of traffic, etc.), a permit shall first be obtained from the Department.

No additional permit is required for:

1. Repair or replacement of overhead service wire.
2. Repair or replacement of overhead cable and terminal hardware, two spans or less.
3. Replace pole, same location, maximum of 10 poles per 8-kilometer (5-mile) section.

Note: Once a new pole is installed, all attached facilities (electric, telephone, CATV, etc.) shall be transferred to the new pole in a timely manner. The old pole shall then be completely removed in accordance with policy 96.54(A).

4. Locate buried cable.
5. Stake route for proposed buried cable.
6. Connect and test wiring at buried cable pedestal locations.
7. Crossarm, bracket, and hardware repair/replacement.
8. Add anchor, guy, or brace between pole and right-of-way line or no closer to traveled way than pole.
9. Trench a pole to maintain or increase roadside clearance.
10. Repair or replacement of overhead conductor, 2 spans or less.
11. Line patrolling.
12. Inspection of manholes (includes water removal, cable tagging, and minor modifications, etc.).
13. Electrolysis surveys.
14. Test for location of underground lines.
15. Paint poles, towers, or crossarms.

D. Maintenance Activities (Continued)

16. Straighten pole, crossarm, or brace.
17. Test or treat existing pole.
18. Remove debris from overhead line.
19. Repair or add grounds.
20. Resag, reattach, or rearrange conductor.
21. Repair cable bonding.
22. Survey lines.
23. Replace pole tags and signs.
24. Reinforce existing pole.
25. Mark location of proposed pole; proposed cable.
26. Grass cutting or snow plowing.
27. Trim trees or remove brush for existing line.
28. Minor repair of lines (installation of buried splices etc.).
29. Sign and marker installation/replacement.
30. Replace/remove line in existing duct.